

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ILO
SUBJ: CONVERSATIONS WITH KEY GENEVA REPR OF IMEC AND G-77

IO FOR GEORGE DALLEY, JOHN MILLS
S/IL FOR DALE GOOD
DEPT PASS LABOR FOR SECY MARSHALL, HOWARD SAMUEL, JAMES
QUACKENBUSH
COMMERCE FOR SECY KREPS
NSC FOR ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI

FROM AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL

1. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH KEY GENEVA REPRESENTATIVES FROM
BOTH THE IMEC AND G-77 GROUPS IT IS INCREASINGLY CLEAR
THAT THE STRUCTURE QUESTIONS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE
RESOLVED BY THE 1978 CONFERENCE. A MAJOR EFFORT WILL BE
MADE DURING THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP BEGINNING
MAY 22 BUT THE DANISH AMBASSADOR, NOW SERVING AS CHAIRMAN
OF THE EC, DOES NOT SEE HOW IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO
RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES AT THIS TIME. ONE OF HIS
COMPLAINTS IS THAT THE G-77 PARTICIPATION IS BADLY
ORGANIZED AND HE NOW PERCEIVES A SOVIET MOVE TO DELAY ANY
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DECISIONS IN ORDER TO SERVE LONG-RANGE SOVIET OBJECTIVES.

2. THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR, EL-SHAFEI, TOLD ME THAT HE
HAS HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SOVIET REPRESENTA-
TIVES HERE REGARDING ILO. HE BELIEVES THAT THE USSR
HAS NOW RECONSIDERED ITS POSITION AND FORMULATED ITS
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES. THE SOVIETS BELIEVE THAT IT WILL

BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE US TO RETURN IF THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE ARE GIVEN A SEPARATE REGION IN THE RESTRUCTURING. THEY HAVE THEREFORE MADE THE INSISTANCE ON AT LEAST FIVE REGIONS A BASIC DEMAND. COUNTING ON CONTINUED US ABSENCE THEY WILL WORK ON G-77 TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR THEIR OBJECTIVE AS WELL AS THEIR OBJECTIVE TO REORGANIZE THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS. AMB EL-SHAFEI IS CONVINCED THAT THE SOVIETS WANT TO SHOW THE DEVELOPING WORLD THAT THE ILO CAN SURVIVE WITHOUT THE US AND, HAVING SHOWN THAT, TO USE THE ILO EXPERIENCE TO BLUNT US PRESSURES OR THREATS OF WITHDRAWAL IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

3. THERE IS A PROFOUND AND WIDESPREAD ATTITUDE AMONG THE IMEC AND G-77 COUNTRIES OF HOPE THAT THE US WILL RETURN. A LARGE PART OF THAT HOPE IS BASED UPON THEIR CERTAINTY THAT THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POWER OF THE US IS NEEDED IF SOVIET DOMINATION IS TO BE AVOIDED. VANDEN HEUVEL

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